

Report time frame: Jan - Dec 2019

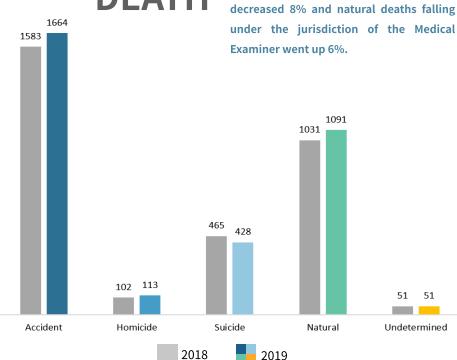
(comparing to: Jan - Dec 2018)

Comparing cases from 2018 to 2019,

accidental deaths have increased 5%, homicides were up by 11%, suicides



## MANNER OF DEATH



## Accidents

Unintentional Drug, Medication, and Alcohol related deaths remained high, representing 39% of all accidental deaths in 2019; Falls accounted for 33% and Motor Vehicle related accidental deaths were at 18%.





- Unintentional deaths due to drug, medication, and/or alcohol toxicity increased by 12% (577 to 645)
- The average age was 46, the youngest was 16, and oldest was 77; 77% were male
- Methamphetamine was a causative factor in 59% of all unintentional overdose cases and saw a 16% increase (328 to 379)
- Deaths where Fentanyl was a causative factor increased by 63% (92 to 151)

Note: Counts listed for Methamphetamine and Fentanyl include deaths where the drug either alone or with other drugs, medication and/or alcohol was a causative factor in death; these counts are not mutually exclusive and may include cases where both Fentanyl and Methamphetamine were a causative factor in death





- Falls increased 12% (488 to 545), remaining a significant cause of accidental deaths, representing 33% of all such cases
- Blunt Head Trauma, including subdural hematoma, remains the leading cause of fall-related deaths, accounting for 49% (266) of these cases
- Deaths resulting from Hip/Femur Fracture represented 24% (131) of Fall cases





- Motor Vehicle related deaths saw an overall decrease of 5% (316 to 301)
- Pedestrian deaths remained the leading type of Motor Vehicle related death at 33% (98); it also decreased 8% (107 to 98) compared to 2018
- Motorcycle related deaths, including both solo and those involving another motor vehicle, saw a 6% increase (48 to 51)

## **Homicides**

11%

INCREASE (102 to 113)

In 55% of cases (62 of 113) the method was a firearm

## Suicides

- There was an 8% decrease in suicides (465 to 428) compared to
- During this time period, firearms continued to be the leading method of suicide, accounting for 39% (166) of all such cases, followed by Asphyxia at 32% (135)
- There were 15 Coronado Bridge deaths in 2019 compared to 16 in 2018

The work of the Department of the Medical Examiner is largely based on Government Code § 27491, which states that all unnatural deaths including homicides, suicides, accidents, and deaths in custody are under the coroner/medical examiner's jurisdiction to investigate. Also falling under our jurisdiction are infectious diseases reaching epidemic proportions, deaths in state or local institutions, and deaths believed to be natural but that occurred suddenly and unexpectedly where the decedent had not seen their health care provider in the last 20 days of life. Note: All deaths that fall under § 27491 are also subject to whether the facts indicate the death occurred under natural circumstances and the physician of record has sufficient knowledge to reasonably state the cause of death occurred under natural circumstance. Therefore, not every death that falls under one of these categories will be investigated by the Medical Examiner's office. See Govt. Code § 27491.